



*FOR YOUR INFORMATION No. 241*



# **Constitution, Human Rights and Rule of Law**

## **La constitución, los derechos humanos y el imperio de la ley**

Webliografía  
08/05

### Links / Vínculos

#### *Acceso a los tribunales y justicia igual para todos*

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0804/ijds/ijds0804.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 9, No. 2, agosto de 2004.

#### *Achievements in Building and Maintaining the Rule of Law*

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/democracy\\_and\\_governance/publications/pdfs/pnacr220.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/publications/pdfs/pnacr220.pdf)

November, 2002 Occasional Paper commissioned by USAID in order to examine the cumulative impacts that can only be measured over a longer time horizon, in as unbiased a manner as possible. Looked, country by country, at such issues as whether military officers have been prosecuted and whether courts have been selected in a transparent, non-political fashion where such prosecutions were inconceivable 20 or even 10 years ago.

#### *Apoyo a los derechos humanos y la democracia: Esfuerzos de Estados Unidos, 2004-2005, Hemisferio Occidental, Colombia*

<http://bogota.usembassy.gov/wwwsdh04.shtml>

#### *El aspecto cambiante de los tribunales de Estados Unidos*

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0503/ijds/ijds0503.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 8, No. 1, mayo de 2003.

#### *La Biblioteca de derechos humanos de la Universidad de Minnesota*

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/Sindex.html>

Base de datos establecida por el Centro para Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Minnesota.

***Bush Praises "Distinguished Service" of Justice O'Connor***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Jul/01-938831.html>

First woman to serve on Supreme Court bench announces retirement.

***Capital Punishment in the U.S.; Fact Sheet***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Mar/01-985703.html>

Originally published on December 1, 2004, this update reflects a March 1, 2005 ruling issued by the U.S. Supreme Court banning the execution of those who were under the age of 18 at the time of their crime.

***La carta de derechos***

[http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/us\\_society\\_values/fundamental\\_documents/Declaracion\\_De\\_Derechos.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/us_society_values/fundamental_documents/Declaracion_De_Derechos.html)

Las primeras 10 enmiendas de la Constitución estadounidense.

***Civil Rights: an Overview***

[http://www.alllaw.com/articles/civil\\_rights/article1.asp](http://www.alllaw.com/articles/civil_rights/article1.asp)

Civil rights are those rights that you have as a result of the U.S. Constitution, federal laws, a state's constitution or a state's laws.

***Código de conducta de los jueces de Estados Unidos***

<http://bogota.usembassy.gov/wwwscju.shtml>

Publicación de la Conferencia Judicial de Estados Unidos, el organismo regulador del sistema judicial federal.

***¿Cómo opera el sistema penal acusatorio?***

<http://bogota.usembassy.gov/wwwfn010.pdf>

***La Constitución de Estados Unidos de América***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/espanol/constitution/index.htm>

La Constitución de Estados Unidos en español, con notas explicativas.

***Constitutional Law: an Overview***

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/topics/constitutional.html>

Descriptive essay of constitutional law with links to U.S. laws and other sources.

***La Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos: el tribunal máximo del país***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0405/ijds/ijds0405.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 10, No. 1, abril de 2005.

***Declaración universal de derechos humanos***

[http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/democracy\\_human\\_rights/dhr\\_reports/Declaracin\\_Universal\\_de\\_Derechos\\_Humanos.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/democracy_human_rights/dhr_reports/Declaracin_Universal_de_Derechos_Humanos.html)

Adoptada y proclamada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su resolución 217 A (III), de 10 de diciembre de 1948.

***Los derechos del pueblo: libertad individual y la Carta de Derechos***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/espanol/democ/derechos/index.htm>

La Carta de Derechos estadounidense ha trascendido sus raíces históricas. El concepto de las garantías individuales se puede apreciar como uno de los componentes básicos de cualquier sociedad civil.

***El desarrollo de la Constitución***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/espanol/constitution/develop.htm>

Planeada para servir a los intereses del pueblo: ricos y pobres, los del norte y los del sur, granjeros, trabajadores y gente de empresa, la Constitución ha sido interpretada de acuerdo a las cambiantes necesidades de Estados Unidos.

***Educación en derechos humanos***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0302/ijds/ijds0302.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 7, No. 1, marzo de 2002.

***Estrategia estadounidense de derechos humanos y democracia en las Américas***

[http://www.usaid.gov/espanol/tempas/pr050404\\_2.html](http://www.usaid.gov/espanol/tempas/pr050404_2.html)

EE.UU. utilizará diversas herramientas para seguir impulsando la expansión de la libertad en todo el mundo, según la estrategia que presenta el informe del Departamento de Estado "Apoyo a los derechos humanos y la democracia: antecedentes de Estados Unidos 2004-2005", divulgado el 28 de marzo de 2005.

***La ética judicial y el imperio del derecho***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0999/ijds/kennedy.htm>

El magistrado de la Corte Suprema de EE.UU., Anthony Kennedy, dice que el imperio del derecho implica democracia constitucional, y uno de los componentes esenciales de ese estado de derecho en una democracia constitucional es la neutralidad.

***Facts about the American Judicial System***

<http://www.abanet.org/media/factbooks/judifact.pdf>

Data about the U.S. judiciary and judicial system, prepared by the American Bar Association.

***La función de los medios de difusión independientes en la construcción de la democracia***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0203/ijgs/gj-2.htm>

Tomado de *Cuestiones mundiales*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 8, No. 1, febrero de 2003.

***Guidance for Promoting Judicial Independence and Impartiality***

[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/democracy\\_and\\_governance/publications/pdfs/pnacm007.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/publications/pdfs/pnacm007.pdf)

This January, 2002 guide, with input from experts in 26 countries, seeks to promote understanding of the issues surrounding judicial independence and to assist USAID and other donors, in collaboration with their local counterparts, to design and implement programs that effectively strengthen judicial independence.

***La importancia de la independencia judicial***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0304/ijds/oconnor.htm>

Presentación de la magistrada de la Suprema Corte de EE.UU., Sandra Day O'Connor, en un Foro Judicial Árabe celebrado en Bahrein. Menciona que la independencia del poder judicial es un elemento fundamental de un gobierno constitucional exitoso y hace referencia específica a las constituciones de países de la región que garantizan tal independencia. Analiza también las maneras como el sistema judicial estadounidense protege a los jueces de la política.

***Independencia judicial en Estados Unidos***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1296/ijds/breyer.htm>

El magistrado de la Corte Suprema de EE.UU., Stephen G. Breyer, presenta los componentes de la independencia judicial que comprenden las protecciones constitucionales de las cuales

disfrutan los jueces en EE.UU.: la administración independiente de la magistratura por la rama judicial, la autoridad disciplinaria judicial en cuanto a la conducta de los jueces, la forma como se resuelven los conflictos de intereses, y la garantía de fallos judiciales efectivos.

***Justice for All***

[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/u.s.\\_legal\\_system/justice\\_for\\_all.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/u.s._legal_system/justice_for_all.html)

Equal access also means equal justice for all. Just as the poor and underprivileged deserve adequate legal representation, so, too, the rich and powerful must never be above the law.

***La justicia penal en Estados Unidos***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0701/ijds/ijds0701.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 6, No. 1, julio de 2001.

***Ley de derechos civiles de 1964***

[http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/democracy\\_human\\_rights/dhr\\_reports/Ley\\_de\\_Derechos\\_Civiles\\_de\\_1964.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/esp/home/topics/democracy_human_rights/dhr_reports/Ley_de_Derechos_Civiles_de_1964.html)

Traducción de la Ley Pública 88-352 del 2 de julio de 1964.

***La libertad religiosa como un derecho humano***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1101/ijds/ijds1101.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, vol. 6, No. 2, noviembre de 2001.

***The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia***

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org>

A new museum in Philadelphia explaining the Constitution, encouraging citizen participation and providing educational resources.

***Outline of the U.S. Legal System***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/legalotln/>

Every business day, courts throughout the United States render decisions that together affect thousands of people. Some adjudicate rights, benefits and legal principles that have an impact on all citizens. Citizens accept the legitimacy of these decisions, and of the Court's role as final interpreter of the law. Surveys the U.S. legal system; how U.S. courts are organized and how they work. (Tenemos *Semblanza del sistema jurídico de EE.UU.*, la edición impresa en español.)

***Principios de la democracia***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/espanol/democ/princip/index.htm>

Una serie de ensayos sobre los fundamentos de la democracia, producida por la Oficina de Programas de Información Internacional del Departamento de Estado.

***Researching Constitutional Law on the Internet***

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/conlaw.html>

A comprehensive webliography.

***Rights and Freedoms***

[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/u.s.\\_legal\\_system/rights\\_and\\_freedoms.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/democracy/u.s._legal_system/rights_and_freedoms.html)

The U.S. legal system rests upon the principle that the fundamental purpose of government is to protect the inherent rights and freedoms that belong to all people, and to ensure equal treatment for all.

***Un sistema judicial modelo***

<http://bogota.usembassy.gov/wwwssfsj.shtml>

Steven Flanders, consultor judicial internacional, dice, "Como los organismos gubernamentales en todas partes, nuestros múltiples sistemas judiciales son instituciones humanas que adolecen de fallas. No necesitan acercarse a la perfección implícita en la idea de un modelo para ofrecer una amplia experiencia, parte de la cual puede ser útil casi en cualquier parte".

***Supreme Court Decisions, 1937-1975***

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/supcrt/](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/supcrt/)

Database for searching decisions.

***Supreme Court Opinions***

<http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>

Searchable database for Supreme Court decisions since 1893.

***Los tribunales de menores en EE.UU.***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/0503/ijds/perez.htm>

*Temas de la democracia*, revista electrónica del Departamento de Estado, Vol. 8, No. 1, mayo de 2003.

***U.S. Courts: the Federal Judiciary***

<http://www.uscourts.gov/>

Information on U.S. courts, judges, juries and cases.

***U.S. Seeks Sweeping Reforms of United Nations***

<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2005/Aug/04-964490.html>

Ambassador Anne W. Patterson mentions new human-rights, peace-building machinery among improvements sought.

## **Organizations / Organizaciones**

**Alliance for Justice**

<http://www.afj.org/>

National association of environmental, civil rights, mental health, women's, children's and consumer advocacy organizations. Since its inception in 1979, it has worked to advance the cause of justice for all citizens, strengthen the public interest community's ability to influence public policy, and foster the next generation of advocates.

**American Civil Liberties Union**

<http://www.aclu.org/>

Works daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution and laws of the U.S.

**Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor – Department of State**

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/>

As we promote democracy and human rights, we build a stronger, more prosperous and, ultimately, freer world.

**Center for Constitutional Rights**

<http://www.ccr-ny.org>

Legal and educational organization dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Committed to the creative use of law as a positive force for social change.

**Center for Study of Human Rights**

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/humanrights/>

Committed to the education and training of emerging human rights leaders, it has pioneered the promotion of human rights research, education and training at Columbia University.

**Center on Juvenile Justice**

<http://www.cjcj.org/>

Provides direct services, technical assistance and policy research in the criminal justice field.

**Freedom House**

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/>

Non-profit, nonpartisan organization, voice for democracy and freedom around the world. Through a vast array of international programs and publications works to advance the remarkable worldwide expansion of political and economic freedom.

**Human Rights First**

<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/index.html>

Works in the U.S. and abroad to create a secure and humane world by advancing justice, human dignity and respect for the rule of law.

**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs**

<http://www.ndi.org/>

Works to strengthen and expand democracy world-wide.

**National Drug Court Institute**

<http://www.ndci.org/aboutndci.htm>

Promotes education, research and scholarship for drug court and other court-based intervention programs.

**National Endowment for Democracy**

<http://www.ned.org/>

Guided by the belief that freedom is a universal human aspiration that can be realized through the development of democratic institutions, procedures, and values, the Endowment is governed by an independent, nonpartisan board of directors, and makes hundreds of grants each year to support pro-democracy groups throughout the world.

**Articles / Artículos**

*Adelman, Stanley E. "Supreme Court bans Death Penalty for Under-18 Offenders." Corrections Today, vol. 67, No. 5 (August, 2005) p.58-61.*

The Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the imposition of "cruel and unusual punishment." Either the imposition of a particular sentence, or the conduct of corrections officials in carrying out a sentence, may be challenged under the 8th Amendment prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

**Bramwell, Austin. "Against Originalism: Getting Over the U.S. Constitution." *Critical Review*, vol. 16 (Fall, 2004) p.431-454.**

Some claim that judges should interpret the U.S. Constitution according to its original public meaning because it satisfies the appropriate normative criterion for determining when a constitution is legitimate and should be followed. Given the lack of a persuasive reason to follow the original Constitution consistently, judges must turn to sources of authority other than the Constitution in deciding constitutional cases.

**"Can Judges Ignore Inadmissible Information? The Difficulty of Deliberately Disregarding." *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, vol. 153, No. 4 (March, 2005) p.1251-1345.**

Focuses on the results of experiments conducted to determine whether judges can ignore inadmissible information. The best way to prevent inadmissible information from influencing jurors is to shield them from it altogether. Despite the best efforts of courts, however, jurors are sometimes exposed to inadmissible information through media accounts of the case or impermissible comments by lawyers or witnesses during trial. Judges attempt to undermine its influence by instructing jurors to limit their use of the information or to disregard it entirely.

**Carter, Terry. "The Verdict on Juries." *ABA Journal*, vol. 91, No. 4 (April, 2005) p.40-46.**

Examines the legal implications for different U.S. states of adopting jury reforms that allow jurors to take notes and ask questions, the means to get more people into jury pools, and when to permit jurors to submit written questions in criminal cases.

**Eastman, John C. "Judicial Review of Unenumerated Rights: does Marbury's Holding apply in a Post-Warren Court World?" *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, vol. 28, No. 3 (Summer, 2005) p.713-740.**

Analyzes the constitutional jurisprudence of unenumerated rights based on the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in the *Marbury v. Madison*, which firmly entrenched judicial review as a fundamental component of the government's constitutional system, and the scope of judicial supremacy among the branches of government based on the case *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*. Compares judicial power between the President and the Congress. Shows the Constitutional authority of the Court to invalidate an act of Congress or of a state legislature.

**Edelman, Martin. "Written Constitutions, Democracy and Judicial Interpretation: the Hobgoblin of Judicial Activism." *Albany Law Review*, vol. 68, No. 3 (2005) p.585-596.**

Addresses the role of judicial interpretation in the establishment and definition of democracy in the U.S. Discusses the justification of the value of democracy, the importance of separating judicial from political issues on the interpretation of democratic theory, and the impact of democracy on extra-constitutional ideas of U.S. courts.

**Eisenberg, Daniel, et al. "What's at Stake in the Fight." *Time*, vol. 166, No. 2 (July 11, 2005) p.28-29.**

Focuses on the political impact of the appointment of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's replacement upon her retirement: the potential for overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion; recent rulings on the display of the Ten Commandments in public spaces, which touch on issues of church and state separation; the legal status of gay rights and same sex marriage; the potential restrictions on the death penalty in criminal procedure; and the Supreme Court's rulings about states' rights, affirmative action, and the right to die.

Jenkins, Allan & Larry Cox. "Bringing Human Rights Home." *Nation*, vol. 280, No. 25 (June 27, 2005) p.27-29.

Looks at the increasing debate surrounding the role of international standards of justice in U.S. domestic law and policy. Discusses Justice Antonin Scalia's dissent regarding the issue of minors and the death penalty; the view that advocates are discovering how the fight for justice and freedom can be waged through human rights. Analyzes the formation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Joint Statement by the European Union and the United States Working Together To Promote Democracy and Support Freedom, the Rule of Law and Human Rights Worldwide." *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, vol. 41, No. 25 (June 27, 2005) p.1034.

Presents the joint statement of the European Union and the U.S. on June 20, 2005 promoting democracy and supporting freedom, the rule of law and human rights worldwide; the significance of the work of the United Nations; and efforts to help sustain democracy in other countries.

Klein, Joe. "A New Idea for Democrats: Democracy." *Time*, vol. 165, No. 15 (April 11, 2005) p.17.

Comments on the politics surrounding the case of Terri Schiavo, who, after 15 years in a persistent vegetative state, was let to die though her wishes were not in writing; the dependence of Democrats on the legal process; and the role of judges in social issues like racial integration, abortion and gay marriage, issues never put to a popular vote but decided upon by the courts.

McCarthy, Andrew C. "Unreasonable Searches." *National Review*, vol. 57, No. 15 (August 29, 2005) p.17-18.

Mentions the War on Terror and efforts by the U.S. government and police to deal with the "enemy" of militant Islam. The idea that political correctness has limited judgment when it comes to common sense in surviving terrorism; the rationale for "racial profiling" as an investigative tool in stopping terrorist attacks; the view that there is constitutional precedence for profiling since the Alien Enemies Act of 1798; and the mafia as an example of criminal conspiracy.

Munro, Neil. "Slamming the Court." *National Journal*, vol. 37, No. 31 (July 30, 2005) p.2444-2447.

Focuses on the condemnation received by the U.S. Supreme Court from the social conservatives for allegedly creating justifications that have no basis in the Constitution. Presents social and political issues that mobilized the conservatives to launch initiatives against the Court since the 1960s; the role of the Court's expansive view of interstate commerce in the foundation of commercial laws and regulations; and reasons behind the reluctance of Republican-appointed judges to overturn decisions by liberal justices.

Rahdert, Mark. "The Court Begins to Shift." *Chronicle of Higher Education*, vol. 51, No. 45 (July 15, 2005) p.B12.

Focuses on changes introduced in the U.S. Supreme Court. For almost a decade, four preponderantly liberal justices have counterbalanced four predictably conservative justices, leaving one member of the court (Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) as the only one whose vote mattered in many cases. Her retirement could be the beginning of a seismic shift in the Court's jurisprudence that will have profound consequences for the nation as a whole and higher education in particular. The current justices have served for an average of 19 years each (an unusually long time); they have served together for 11 years without a change in personnel.

Stuntz, William J. "Police Powers." *New Republic*, vol. 233, No. 4 (July 25, 2005) p.20-21.

Offers a look at the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in law enforcement and the administra-

tion of justice. Reports that the U.S. has incarcerated more than two million people in its prisons and jails in 2005; 45% of prisoners are black. Refers to Supreme Court rulings that make it easier for police to make drug busts on poor city streets than in the suburbs. Presents rules placed on criminal trials by the Supreme Court.

**Sunstein, Cass R. "Minimal Appeal." *New Republic*, vol. 233, No. 5 (August 1, 2005) p.17-19.**

Explores different philosophies for Supreme Court Justices. Explains the four fundamental philosophies in the Supreme Court: majoritarians, perfectionists, minimalists and fundamentalists. Majoritarian philosophy states courts should only strike down laws when it is clear lawmakers have made a mistake; the Perfectionist agenda of Earl Warren sought to protect those groups that were least able to protect themselves.

**Swanson, Charles W. "Our Judicial Branch Under Attack." *Tennessee Bar Journal*, vol. 41, No. 6 (June, 2005) p.3-4.**

Comments on the attack upon public confidence in the justice system in the U.S.; the impact on the rule of law of the attack on the judicial system, and how lawyers and bar associations can address these attacks.

**Taylor, Stuart. "What Kind of Justice?" *National Journal*, vol. 37, No. 30 (July 23, 2005) p.2352-2357.**

Focuses on the political implications of the nomination of Judge John G. Roberts to the Supreme Court by President Bush. His stand on human rights issues; the impact of his judicial activist principles on racial and gender discrimination policies, and the concept of judicial activism.

**Winston, Sherie. "High Court Ruling May Aid Construction." *ENR: Engineering News-Record*, vol. 255, No. 1 (July 4, 2005) p.9.**

In one of the final decisions in its 2004-05 term (*Kelo v. City of New London*), the U.S. Supreme Court bolstered local governments' ability to seize homes and businesses for private development, but also handed a defeat to "property rights" advocates. The ruling essentially extends the scope of the 5th Amendment, which lets governments take private property through eminent domain if the land is for "public use." The Court declared local officials, not federal judges, most knowledgeable to decide if a community would be best served by a proposed project.

## **Books / Libros en el Centro de Recursos Informativos**

**Mitchell, Ralph. *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Constitution: History, Text, Glossary, Index*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1986.**

**Witt, Elder. *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1990.**

Basic, comprehensive guide to the nation's highest court.

**Corwin, Edward Samuel, 1878-1963. *La constitución de los Estados Unidos y su significado actual*. Buenos Aires, Argentina: Fraterna, 1987.**

***The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis and Interpretation*. Washington DC: USGPO.**

Bergman, Paul. *La defensa en juicio: la defensa penal y la oralidad*. Buenos Aires: Abeledo-Perrot, 1995.

*Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*. New York: Macmillan, 1986.

Graham, Michael H. *Federal Rules of Evidence in a Nutshell*. 5th ed. Minneapolis, MN: West Pub. Co., 2001.

*El federalista*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1957.

Los 85 ensayos que Alexander Hamilton, James Madison y John Jay escribieron en apoyo de la Constitución estadounidense.

Hay, Peter. *Una introducción al derecho de los Estados Unidos*. Salem, NH: Butterworth Legal Pubs., 1992.

Harrison, Maureen & Steve Gilbert, eds. *Landmark Decisions of the United States Supreme Court*. Beverly Hills, CA: Excellent Books, 1991-1995.

Araújo, Jess J. *La ley y sus derechos legales; un manual bilingüe para asuntos legales cotidianos*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Hegland, Kenney F. *Manual de prácticas y técnicas procesales*. Buenos Aires: Heliasta, 1995.

*The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Analyzes individually the 440 most important cases in the Court's history, shedding light on the evolution of constitutional law.

*Semblanza del sistema jurídico de EE.UU.* Washington, DC: Departamento de Estado, 2004.

Cada día los tribunales estadounidenses entregan decisiones que, en conjunto, afectan a miles de personas. Algunos adjudican derechos, beneficios y principios legales que tienen impacto sobre todos los ciudadanos. Todos los ciudadanos aceptan estas decisiones como legítimas y el papel del tribunal como intérprete final de la ley. Analiza el sistema jurídico de EE.UU.; la organización y el funcionamiento de los tribunales.

*West's Encyclopedia of American Law*. Minneapolis, MN: West Pub. Co., 1998.

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**Bogotá, Colombia**

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**<http://bogota.usembassy.gov>**

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El Centro de Recursos Informativos (IRC por sus siglas en inglés: Information Resources Center), establecido para apoyar los programas de la Embajada de Estados Unidos de América, brinda información actualizada sobre Estados Unidos en las áreas de interés bilateral, como son: economía y comercio, corrupción, lavado de dinero, democracia y derechos humanos, drogas y narcotráfico, extradición, propiedad intelectual, terrorismo, ambiente. Por medio de la página en la internet, se ofrece acceso a legislación, política exterior, a miles de oficinas del gobierno y otras instituciones estadounidenses. Nuestro público se compone de oficinas gubernamentales, medios de comunicación, académicos, profesionales, investigadores y organizaciones no gubernamentales.